

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065457

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USDEL JEC PARIS CINCPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB APRIL 7, 1973 FROM SAIGON REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5872

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: MILI MARR VS

SUBJECT: FAN PULLS BACK

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONGEN CAN THO DATED APR 7
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0142

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, VS

SUBJECT: FANK PULLS BACK

REFERENCE: CAN THO 141

1. MR IV COMMANDER MG NGHI TOLD A CONGEN OFFICERS AND OSA
REPRESENTATIVES APRIL 7 HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM THE
15 TH FANK BRIGADE MINUS ONE BATTALION TO PULL BACK WITHIN THE
VIETNAMESE FRONTIER (CHAU DOC PROVINCE). NGHI HAD REFUSED
PERMISSION
AND HAD INSTEAD DISPATCHED A RANGER BATTALION WITH ARMORED CAVALRY
SUPPORT AND SUPPLIES ACROSS THE BORDER TO SUPPORT THE FLAGGING
BRIGADE. NGHI STATED THE 15 TH FANK HAD ABANDONED ITS TUN LOAP
POSITION NEXT TO O MOUNTAIN AND WAS PRESENTLY SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
TUN LOAP AND TIEN BINH ON THE CHAU DOC BORDER.
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2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION APRIL 4 WITH OUR VICE CONSUL ASSIGNED TO CHAU DOC, THE 44 TH SPECIAL TACTICAL ZONE'S CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTED THAT RVNAF FORCES WERE ONLY CONDUCTING BORDER PATROLS AND DENIED ANY PENETRATION MORE THAN 4 KILOMETERS INTO CAMBODIA. HE HAD ALSO STATED THAT THE 44 TH STZ SENT A SQUADRON OF ARMOR AND A COMPANY OF RANGERS TO REINFORCE FANK TEN DAYS EARLIER BUT THAT THEY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN. THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S STATEMENT HAS PRESUMABLY BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

3. THE CHIEF OF STAFF FURTHER ELABORATED ON THE STATUS OF FANK FORCES ON ROUTE 2 NEAR CHAU DOC. HE SAID THE BRIGADE COMMANDER, CHAU HAI SIEN, WAS PROMOTED TO FULL COLONEL IN MARCH AND CONCURRENTLY NAMED CHIEF OF KIRIVONG PROVINCE IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP HIM FROM WITHDRAWING COMPLETELY FROM THE AREA. THE CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THAT SIEN WAS PROBABLY AN ADEQUATE COMMANDER BUT SUFFERED FOOD, AMMUNITION AND MONEY SHORTAGES. HE NOTED THAT ABOUT 3 00 OF SIEN'S SOLDIERS HAD RECENTLY DESERTED AND RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES IN TRI TON.

4. APART FROM CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS IN CHAU DOC, THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO SIGNIFICANT RVNAF OPERATIONS OR ANY RVNAF FIXED POSITIONS IN CAMBODIA. ALL RVNAF FORCES IN THE NORTHERN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE AREA ARE WITHIN VIET NAM. IN THE HA TIEN AREA IN KIEN GIANG, RVNAF WITHDREW ITS LAST CAMBODIAN OUTPOST IN FEBRUARY AND IS RUNNING NO SECURITY PATROLS IN CAMBODIA. BARNES WHITE HOUSE UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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